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# Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

## Report of the Fifth Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 49th, 53rd and 55th meetings, on 28 May and on 5 and 25 June 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.49, 53 and 55).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/520);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/689 and Corr.1);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/746/Add.11).

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## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45

4. At the 53rd meeting, on 5 June, the representative of Sweden and Vice-Chairman of the Committee informed the Committee that no consensus had been reached during the informal consultations on this item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/63/L.45).

6. At the 55th meeting, on 25 June, the Secretary of the Committee orally corrected the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the word "and" was added after the words "30 June 2006", and the words "and 63/___ of __ June 2009" were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 12, the word "and" was added after "60/266", and the words "and 63/___" were deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 17, the amount of "609,763,000" was replaced with "589,799,200";

(d) In operative paragraph 19, the amount of "1,828,270" was replaced with "1,816,400".

(e) In operative paragraph 21, the amount of "9,141,330" was replaced with "9,082,000".

7. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations, proposed an amendment to the draft resolution, which was read out by the Secretary, by which four new paragraphs would be added, as follows:

(a) After operative paragraph 10, a new paragraph 11 was inserted, reading:

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;"

and former paragraph 11 was renumbered as paragraph 12;

(b) After renumbered operative paragraph 12, new paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 were inserted, reading:

"13. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of its resolution 62/264 of 20 June 2008 and paragraph 12 of its resolution 62/265, and decides not to endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

"14. *Takes note* of paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

"15. *Decides* to apply a vacancy factor of 18 per cent for both international and national staff of the Force;"

and the remaining paragraphs were renumbered accordingly.

8. Also at the 55th meeting, before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Israel.

9. At the same meeting, a recorded vote was requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of the draft resolution. A recorded vote was also requested on the draft resolution as a whole.

10. Also at the 55th meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45 as follows:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 were retained by a recorded vote of 74 to 5, with 45 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour*:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, United States of America.

*Abstaining*:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(b) Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45, as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 125 to 2, with no abstentions (see para. 12). The voting was as follows:

*In favour*:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger,

Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

*Against*:

Israel, United States of America.

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Czech Republic (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Lebanon, Australia, United States of America, New Zealand and Canada (see A/C.5/63/SR.55).

# III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

*The General Assembly*,

*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1832 (2008) of 27 August 2008, by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2009,

*Recalling also* its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 62/265 of 20 June 2008,

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998, 53/227 of 8 June 1999, 54/267 of 15 June 2000, 55/180 A of 19 December 2000, 55/180 B of 14 June 2001, 56/214 A of 21 December 2001, 56/214 B of 27 June 2002, 57/325 of 18 June 2003, 58/307 of 18 June 2004, 59/307 of 22 June 2005, 60/278 of 30 June 2006, 61/250 A of 22 December 2006, 61/250 B of 2 April 2007, 61/250 C of 29 June 2007 and 62/265 of 20 June 2008,

*Reaffirming also* the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

*Noting with appreciation* that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

*Mindful* of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005, 60/266 of 30 June 2006 and 61/276 of 29 June 2007, and other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the Force as at 30 April 2008, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 115.8 million United States dollars, representing some 2 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with

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[1] A/63/520 and A/63/689 and Corr.1.

[2] A/63/746/Add.11.

concern that only seventy-five Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States that have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full;

4. *Expresses deep concern* that Israel did not comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C and 62/265;

5. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237, 53/227, 54/267, 55/180 A, 55/180 B, 56/214 A, 56/214 B, 57/325, 58/307, 59/307, 60/278, 61/250 A, 61/250 B, 61/250 C and 62/265;

6. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

7. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

10. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of the facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that proposed peacekeeping budgets are based on the relevant legislative mandates;

12. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

13. *Recalls* paragraph 10 of its resolution 62/264 of 20 June 2008 and paragraph 12 of its resolution 62/265, and decides not to endorse the recommendation contained in paragraph 16 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

14. *Takes note* of paragraph 29 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

15. *Decides* to apply a vacancy factor of 18 per cent for both international and national staff of the Force;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of its resolutions 59/296, 60/266 and 61/276;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

19. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of its resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of its resolution 52/237, paragraph 11 of its resolution 53/227, paragraph 14 of its resolution 54/267, paragraph 14 of its resolution 55/180 A, paragraph 15 of its resolution 55/180 B, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 A, paragraph 13 of its resolution 56/214 B, paragraph 14 of its resolution 57/325, paragraph 13 of its resolution 58/307, paragraph 13 of its resolution 59/307, paragraph 17 of its resolution 60/278, paragraph 21 of its resolution 61/250 A, paragraph 20 of its resolution 61/250 B, paragraph 20 of its resolution 61/250 C and paragraph 21 of its resolution 62/265, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,117,005 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

**Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008**

20. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial performance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;[3]

**Budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010**

21. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 615,775,300 dollars for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, inclusive of 589,799,200 dollars for the maintenance of the Force, 21,618,500 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 4,357,600 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base;

**Financing of the appropriation**

22. *Also decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 102,629,217 dollars for the period from 1 July to 31 August 2009, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 of 22 December 2006, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237 of 22 December 2006;

23. *Further decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 22 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the amount of 2,263,183 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 1,816,400 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 375,100 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 71,683 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

[3] A/63/520.

24. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 513,146,083 dollars for the period from 1 September 2009 to 30 June 2010 at a monthly rate of 51,314,608 dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237, and for 2010,[4] subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force;

25. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 24 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 11,315,917 dollars, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 9,082,000 dollars approved for the Force, the prorated share of 1,875,500 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of 358,417 dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

26. *Further decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 22 above, their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 154,291,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the levels updated in its resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008, as set out in its resolution 61/237;

27. *Decides* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against their outstanding obligations their respective share of the unencumbered balance and other income in the total amount of 154,291,500 dollars in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008, in accordance with the scheme set out in paragraph 26 above;

28. *Also decides* that the decrease of 2,703,200 dollars in the estimated staff assessment income in respect of the financial period ended 30 June 2008 shall be set off against the credits from the amount of 154,291,500 dollars referred to in paragraphs 26 and 27 above;

29. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

30. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel participating in the Force under the auspices of the United Nations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

31. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".

[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.